



# CARTER COURIER

<http://carter.house.gov>

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## LETTER FROM THE CONGRESSMAN

Dear Friends,

First and foremost, my thoughts and prayers are with the families who have been ravaged by Hurricane Ike. I thank our first responders, local and county officials who have worked around the clock to ensure the people of the Gulf Coast are kept safe until they can return to their homes.

Since returning to Washington, Congress has done little to complete the business of the people. This week, Democrats passed an energy bill that restricts energy exploration in ANWR and off of the Outer Continental Shelf. Leading Senate Democrats have already declared this bill dead on arrival, putting us back at square one of the energy debate. As always, I will continue fighting for an energy bill that will utilize all American energy, lower prices at the pump, and reduce our dependency on foreign oil.

Until next week,



## TEXANS COULD BE IN FOR A BUMPY RIDE

Every year folks drive across the 152,054 miles of Texas roads and highways. All of that traveling not only leads to wear and tear on our vehicles, but it also greatly affects the quality of highways and bridges. Unfortunately, the account used to fund our federal roads and highways, the Highway Trust Fund, is dangerously underfunded. Recent reports released by the Department of the Treasury state that the balance in the Highway Trust Fund has dropped steeply over the past two months, from \$4.2 billion at the end of July to less than \$1.4 billion at the beginning of September. With our streets getting more congested and our interstates deteriorating, our nation, and especially Central Texas, is in need of solutions now.

The Highway Trust Fund was created in 1956 to ensure dependable funds were available for our interstates and highways. Its primary source of funding comes from fuel taxes. For every gallon of gas you purchase, you pay 18.5 cents in federal gas taxes. Additionally, states set their own gas tax rate as well. For example, Texas drivers pay approximately 20 cents more per gallon. These taxes are important to maintaining our roads and highways.

The problem is that over the past two months, fuel tax receipts have been considerably lower than expected because people are driving less. When gas prices go up, people stop driving and thus stop pay-

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ing gas taxes. When people can't afford gasoline, Texas can't afford its roads. In the two years since Democrats have taken over Congress, gas prices have risen 60 percent. The irresponsible Democrats have been answering to radical environmental groups instead of the American people. Their recklessness has cost us our fuel, our food, our jobs and now it is costing us our roads.

Central Texans know just how important transportation dollars are to our continued growth and stability. Congress recently passed a bill that would transfer \$8 billion from the United States general fund to the Highway Trust Fund without raising taxes. But this bill alone is not a solution.

America cannot have its infrastructure undermined by the loss of the Highway Trust Fund. Congress must work to lower gas prices immediately, not in the future. We need to not only secure our energy independence, but also make things like family vacations and trips to the beach affordable again. If we do this, we will see our highway dollars replenished, our food costs go back down and our economy start to rise again.

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### **SHINE AND DELISI NAMED CIVILIAN AIDES TO THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY FOR THE FORT HOOD AREA**

Jean Shine of Harker Heights and State Representative Dianne White Delisi of Temple were selected to serve as the Civilian Aides to the Secretary of the Army (CASA) for the Fort Hood area. The swearing-in ceremony took place at the Pentagon.

Mrs. Shine and Rep. Delisi both have long histories of community and public service at Fort Hood and with the surrounding communities. The brave men and women of Fort Hood can rest assure that these two reputable leaders will work on their behalf to make sure the interests and needs of the Fort Hood community are met by Congress and the Secretary of the Army.

Shine and Delisi replace the late Tommy Joe "T.J." Mills, who served as the Fort Hood CASA for more than 20 years.

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### **CARTER ANNOUNCES OCTOBER OUTREACH SCHEDULE**

The caseworkers of Congressman John Carter's office will be traveling to towns throughout the district and setting up local office hours. During these hours constituents can ask questions about services Congressman Carter offers or seek help with problems dealing with federal agencies.

#### **ERATH COUNTY**

Dublin: Thursday, Oct. 2, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m., Dublin City Hall Council Chambers, 213 E. Blackjack St.

Stephenville: Thursday, Oct. 2, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., Stephenville City Hall, 298 W. Washington

#### **HAMILTON COUNTY**

Hico: Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., City of Hico Office, 120 W. First Street

Hamilton: Friday, Oct. 3, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m., Hamilton County Courthouse

#### **CORYELL COUNTY**

Gatesville: Wednesday, Oct. 1, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m., Gatesville Chamber of Commerce, Cotton Belt Depot, 2307 HWY 36 South

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## **PELOSI TURNS DEAF EAR TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE**

This past week, I blasted Democrat leaders for refusing to allow an open and honest debate on their latest “no energy” energy bill.

Speaker Pelosi sent a strong message to the American people by not allowing a vote on an ‘all of the above’ energy bill. She has made it very clear that the only energy bill this House would vote on is the one created behind closed doors, in the dead of night and on her terms alone. Neither Republicans nor Democrats had an opportunity to state their opposition by offering amendments that would allow for development of American oil. The Speaker would not allow a vote on any type of additional oil development anywhere in the United States because she knew it would pass overwhelmingly.

The Dems ‘no energy’ energy bill will once again deny Americans a comprehensive energy package that will lower prices at the pump. This Democratic bill will permanently lock away 88 percent of American oil on the Outer Continental Shelf. Additionally, it will ban American energy exploration on Alaska’s North Slope and in the western mountains. It excludes any efforts to produce nuclear and clean coal-to-liquids technology. This is not the energy bill the American people are begging for.

While Speaker Pelosi will say this bill was a vote for drilling, this is far from the truth. It will block states from sharing in the multi-trillion dollar tax revenues that come from agreeing to drill offshore. In other words, Speaker Pelosi intentionally left revenue-sharing out of the bill because she knows no state will go through the trouble to increase offshore production when they know they will be hit by billion-dollar environmental lawsuits.

Americans have consistently cried out for American energy exploration to lower gas prices and free us from our dependency on foreign oil. Unfortunately, the voice of the American people has fallen on the Speaker’s deaf ear.

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## **CARTER SENDS LETTER TO PELOSI URGING HER TO REMOVE REP. RANGEL AS CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE**

Recently I sent a letter, along with House Republican Leaders, to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) urging her to remove Rep Charles Rangel (D-NY) as chairman of the Ways and Means Committee until ethical charges against him are resolved.

As a judge for over twenty years, I am a firm believer in enforcing and abiding by the law. Members of Congress are not above the law, and if anything, should hold themselves to a higher standard. Speaker Pelosi should immediately remove Rep. Rangel until these charges are cleared and the issue has been resolved.

The New York Times, Bloomberg News and other media outlets reported that the chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, Rep. Charles Rangel (D-NY), has failed to report to both the IRS and the Clerk of the House at least \$75,000 in income from a luxury vacation property in the Caribbean, and that he received an interest-free loan for the property-allegations confirmed in numerous media reports by Rep. Rangel’s own attorney. These new revelations follow the news that Chairman Rangel has been occupying four rent-controlled apartments in New York City, one of which he has illegally used as a campaign office. The letter in its entirety can be found below or by clicking here: